

## **State grant improves community's emergency response capability Sheriff's Office uses funds for response trailers, communication tools, drones, more**

(WCSO-DEM) In time for potential floods and winter weather, Whatcom County is preparing to deploy several new resources to aid emergency preparedness and response.

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (DEM) received a one-time State Commerce Department grant for nearly \$4.3 million to purchase a suite of resources, based on needs identified following the November 2021 countywide floods. Those resources include:

- Electronic message boards;
- Sandbagging machines;
- Radio simulcast system;
- Enhanced alert and evacuation notification software system;
- Four all-weather drones; and
- And emergency response trailers for deployment to impacted areas

Each response trailer is stocked with cots, blankets and pillows, as well as tables and chairs, a generator, a tool kit, First Aid kit, paper products and feminine supplies, cleaning materials and various office supplies.

"The goal is to deploy each fully stocked trailer to a predetermined location in an impacted community," said Undersheriff Doug Chadwick, who oversees WCSO DEM. "Having the essential resources immediately available will enhance on-site rescue and response."

The one-time Emergency Rapid Response Grant was in response to Whatcom County flooding and the result of the 2021 floods.

For more information, contact Whatcom County Sheriff's Office DEM Public Information Officer [acloud@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:acloud@co.whatcom.wa.us).

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